Rural

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The Maryland Agricultural College Bulletin

COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE FOR MARYLAND MINISTERS

AUGUST 4, 5, 6, 1914

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A TRIBUTE

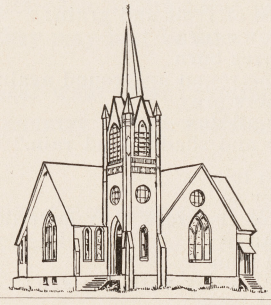
All honor and respect to the minister in our rural communities. He is a missionary, a patriot, a hero. He sacrifices worldly ambition and accepts as his aim in life the service of his fellow men; he denies himself ease and bodily comfort and braves the storms and rigor of winter and the oppressive heat of summer in carrying his message of God's love to the distant points on his circuit; he meets discouraging conditions uncomplainingly and with the weight of a sodden and visionless community on his heart, he continues to preach hopefulness, faith and love. Truly he came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF

Country Life Conference

FOR

MARYLAND MINISTERS.



AUGUST 4th to 6th, 1914.

Held Under the Auspices
of the

Maryland Agricultural College,

College Park, Md.

The Rural Church.

"In some great day
The Country Church
Will find its voice
And it will say:

"I stand in the fields
Where the wide earth yields
Her bounties of fruit and grain:
Where the furrows turn
Till the plowshares burn
As they come round and round again:
Where the workers pray
With their tools all day
In sunshine and shadow and rain."

"And I bid them tell
Of the crops they sell
And speak of the work they have done:
I speed everyman
In his hope and plan
And follow his day with the sun:
And grasses and trees,
The birds and the bees
I know and feel ev'ry one."

"And out of it all
As the seasons fall
I build my great temple alway;
I point to the skies,
But my footstone lies
In commonplace work of the day;
For I preach the worth
Of the native earth—
To love and to work is to pray"

LIBERTY H. BAILEY.

COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE.

The Conference announced in this bulletin is planned with the following ends in view:

The Purpose

That ministers of all denominations may meet for a common purpose.

That they may get each others ideas as to what problems are most vital and how they may best be met.

That they may hear what those devoting their lives and talents to the solving of the country church problem have to say as to that solution.

That they may map out a program of action founded on a more comprehensive understanding of the problem—a program of concerted effort.

That they may be inspired by the touch with fellow ministers, and that the combined enthusiasm of all may follow each to his particular field, making him more hopeful, more enthusiastic and more powerful in his effort to make Jesus Christ the controlling spirit in the lives of all.

The Speakers

Theorists and visionaries lacking in experience were avoided in securing speakers for the Conference. The people chosen have met hard cold facts—have met the problem as the minister meets it and are giving their whole time and effort in assisting him to solve it.

Dr. Thomas N. Carver, Director of Rural Organization Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is one of our foremost leaders in problems relating to country life. He is a graduate of Cornell and Oberlin, spending six years as instructor at the latter college.

From 1900-1913 he was head of a department of Harvard University. He is especially well versed in the economic questions confronting farmers. He was President of the New England Country Church Association 1908-1913 and has been in constant demand as a speaker at Country Life and Country Church Conferences. Among many books of which he is the author, are "Principles of Rural Economics," and "The Religion Worth Having." He is an excellent speaker and has a personality that wins as well as convinces.

Mr. Henry Isreal, of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, and Editor of "Rural Manhood" has had years of experience in country life work. He was for four years a County Secretary and has held his present position six years. In this time he has done much research work, has organized county ministerial unions, served as a representative of the State of New York at the National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, and has been called upon by Commissioner of Education Claxton for special work. He has lectured at many conferences and before many Colleges. He has addressed the graduate students of Columbia and given several lectures before the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, the largest theological institution in the world. Products of his pen include numerous magazine articles and a book on "The Country Church and Community Co-operation."

The supreme work of the church must ever be the teaching of revealed truth and the cultivation of resulting spiritual life.

Charles Erdman.

Miss Anna B. Taft, is assistant to Dr. Warren H. Wilson, of the Department of Church and Country Life of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. Within the past few years she has filled a large place as a lecturer before Colleges, assemblies, and summer schools. She has been a religious worker in the country fields and knows the problem from actual contact. Much of her effort lately has been given to assisting Dr. Wilson in making surveys in many counties and States, one of which was that in Montgomery County, Maryland. Both as a writer and speaker Miss Taft is charming and convincing. Among the leaders of the Country Life movement, she is closely associated with those who are influencing the whole country.

Charles O. Bemies is pastor of a church in McClellandtown, Pennsylvania. He is a man of broad experience. He was for several years active in Y. M. C. A. work, in Massachusetts, Iowa and Pennsylvania. Upon graduation from Western Theological Seminary, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, he took a country charge by preference. He has worked out a solution to the problems of his community and his work stands out as an example of the truth of his principles. He has spoken before Country Life Conferences at the Universities of Wisconsin, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and at numerous smaller conferences. Among his numerous articles, one in "The World's Work" for August, 1911, gives a good presentation of his methods of making the Church an active force in community life. He is a convincing speaker and has a message that can be translated into increased efficiency in God's work.

The community does not truly respect the minister who is content to occupy the third or the fourth of what is properly one man's field.

Paul Morton.

Prof. Willet M. Hays, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, has spent over thirty years in Agricultural Education work. After winning his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agriculture, he became, consecutively, an Assistant Agriculturist at Iowa State College, Editor of "The Prairie Farmer." Assistant Agriculturist of Minnesota College of Agriculture and of the Experiment Station. From these and like positions, he "graduated" to the Assistant Secretaryship of Agriculture (1905-1913). Since then he has been in Argentina as a consulting Agriculturist.

He has been prominently connected with the movement for the organization of Agricultural High Schools. He holds many degrees and honorary memberships as tokens of the esteem in which his work is held. He is most eminently qualified to discuss "Education for Country Life."

John D. Van Scoten, Inter-State Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia, is a man with years of experience in that important work. He was for nine years a Secretary for the State of Ohio, in which capacity he was intimately in touch with the conditions prevailing in the country, the need of organized play and athletics for the country boy and girl, and the success of county work where organized. On leaving Ohio, he became the General Secretary of the Pittsburg Association. His present field is a different one and he needs the minister's cooperation in making the country an interesting place for the boy and girl to live—a place they will always prefer to the city.

I have no fear of the introduction of sociology in the theological seminary. We need more of it, and not less. We need to cull the old non-essential courses of our curriculum.

Prof. Arthur S. Hoyt.

Dr. H. J. Patterson, President of the Maryland Agricultural College, who will deal with the economic phases of country life, has made a life study of agricultural conditions and their improvement in this State. Since 1898, he has been Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, in which position he has had wide spread influence in fostering improved methods of farming and more intelligent production throughout the rural districts. He recently retired from the office of Master of the Maryland State Grange after a number of years of constructive service in which that organization has shown a marked efficiency in voicing the demands of our farmers and in meeting through its local branches the social and educational needs of their neighborhoods. Probably, no one man is better fitted to deal with questions relating to the country life of Maryland or has more faith in the opportunities open to our country minister for the upbuilding of our communities.

Rev. Ward Platt of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Philadelphia is a minister of wide experience. Many years in the field, and over seven years with the Board of Home Missions, supply him with a knowledge of the facts and the ability to reach a satisfactory conclusion as to the possibilities and impossibilities of federating and uniting churches. He is at present one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Board.

Hence, one of the ideals must be to get the country church self-sustaining on however modest a scale.

T. C. Hall.

THE PROGRAM.

In arranging the program, the aim has been to make it as largely discussional as possible so that many may have an opportunity to express their opinions. In fact, over half the time is taken by free-for-all discussions. Under each discussion scheduled are topics which may or may not be taken up, being placed there merely as suggestions.

A chairman will be chosen and rules adopted, limiting the time allowed each speaker in the discussions.

It should be noted that the main topics for Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday and Thursday follow in the same order as the topics of the discussion of Tuesday A. M.

TUESDAY, A. M., AUGUST 4th, 1914.

10:00—10:15—Opening Exercises.
10:15—10:30—Address of Welcome.....Dr. H. J. Patterson.
10:30—10:35—Adoption of rules governing discussions, etc.
10:35—11:00—**STATEMENT OF COUNTRY CHURCH PROBLEM**
—*Henry Isreal.*
11:00—12:00—Discussions—Facing the Facts.

(a) Some country churches are fighting a losing battle.
  (1) The disregard for religion—non-attendance.
  (2) Weakening and desertion of many former flourishing churches.
(b) The deadness of community life.
  (1) The dearth of social opportunities.
  (2) The absence of organized play and athletics.
  (3) Monotony, long hours, hard work and isolation cause country life to be hopeless and visionless.

(c) Sordidness of the life of womankind in some communities.

(d) Lack of co-operation among country life institutions.

(e) Overchurching and poor financing.

(f) "Urbanitis" in schools. Everywhere the challenge of the city drowning out the challenge of the country.

(g) "Urbanitis" in the Ministry.

(1) Country schools and country ministry used as stepping stones leading to the city.

LUNCHEON.

TUESDAY, P. M., AUGUST 4th, 1914.

1:15— 1:40—**In the Light of Present Conditions, WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH? IS IT FULFILLING THIS FUNCTION?** *Rev. C. O. Bemies.*

1:40— 2:20—Discussions.

THE SOLUTION—The Church can fulfill these functions if it has a knowledge of facts, a realization of the causes for conditions in its domain.

2:20— 2:45—**SURVEYS—THEIR POSSIBILITIES**—*Anna B. Taft*

2:45— 3:00—**REPORT OF A SURVEY ON "WHY PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH"**.....*B. H. Darrow.*

3:00— 3:10—Intermission.

3:10— 3:30—Discussions.

(1) How may a minister best initiate the making of a survey.

(b) The ability to make country life appeal to the youth so as to keep him there, an ambitious worker for betterment.

3:30—3:55—**(1) THE COUNTRY CHURCH AS A SOCIAL CENTER**.....*Rev. C. O. Bemies.*

3:55—4:15—Discussions.

(a) What kind of entertainment should be allowed, and what should not.

EVENING SESSION.

— 8:00—**MARYLAND'S AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES**—*Dr. H. J. Patterson.*

—Boys' and Girls' Clubs: **HOW THE MINISTER CAN HELP THEM**.....*J. E. Metzger.*

WEDNESDAY, A. M., AUGUST 5th, 1914.

9:00— 9:15—Opening Exercises.

9:15— 9:40—**THE WORK OF COUNTY Y. M. C. A. SECRETARIES IN GUIDING ATHLETICS**—*J. D. Van Scoten.*

9:40—10:00—Discussions.

(1) Co-operation by minister.

10:00—10:30—**HOW TO MAKE COUNTRY LIFE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO INDUCE FARMERS TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY EVEN THO THEY ARE PROSPEROUS ENOUGH TO MOVE TO TOWN**—*Dr. T. N. Carver.*

(a) Agricultural schools and colleges.

10:30—10:40—Intermission.

10:40—11:05—Discussions.

(1) How largely is it a "Church Problem."

11:05—11:35—**MAKING THE COUNTRY WOMAN'S LIFE MORE PLEASANT AND ATTRACTIVE**—*Anna B. Taft*

11:35—12:00—Discussions.

(1) Women's organizations in the country church.

(2) Wholesome and attractive homes—modern conveniences—sanitation.

LUNCHEON.

WEDNESDAY, P. M., AUGUST 5th, 1914.

1:15—1:45—**CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF COUNTRY COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**....*Henry Israel.*

1:45— 2:30—Discussions.

Church.

School.

Y. M. C. A.

Grange.
Ladies Aids and Guilds.
Young People's Societies.
Fraternal Organizations.
Farmers' Clubs.
Neighborhood Improvement Associations.
Library Clubs. . .
Literary Societies.
Boys' Corn Clubs.

2:30— 2:45—Intermission.

2:45— 3:15—**FEDERATION OR UNITING OF WEAK CHURCHES**
Rev. Ward Platt.

3:15— 4:00—Discussions.

(1) Is church federation made impossible by vested interests in country church property?
(2) Is the country community better served by a single church or a plurality of churches?
(3) The Y. M. C. A. and the Federal Council as leaders.

EVENING SESSION.

8:00—Popular Lecture.

Thursday, A. M., August 6th, 1914.

9:00— 9:15—Opening Exercises.

9:15— 9:40—**EDUCATION FOR COUNTRY**...*Willet M. Hays.*

9:40—10:10—Discussions.

(1) How should better agriculture be taught?
(2) How far shall city institutions and methods be imitated?
(3) How to develop rural life literature, books, and magazines.

10:10—10:20—Intermission.

10:20—10:50—**A RURAL VISIONED MINISTRY PREPARED FOR LEADERSHIP**.....*Rev. C. O. Bemies.*

10:50—12:00—Discussions.

(1) The teaching of religion in the country.

(2) Bible Study for farmers.

LUNCHEON.

1:15— 1:30—**THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE—HOW MAY IT BE OF GREATEST SERVICE?**

1:30— 2:00—Discussions.

(a) Assistance in making community surveys.

(b) Extension Courses.

(c) Co-operating with Theological Seminaries.

(d) **SHALL THERE BE A SUMMER SCHOOL FOR MINISTERS AT MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN 1915?**

2:00— 2:30—**PRESENTATION OF A WORKING PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTRY CHURCH**—Committee to be chosen first day.

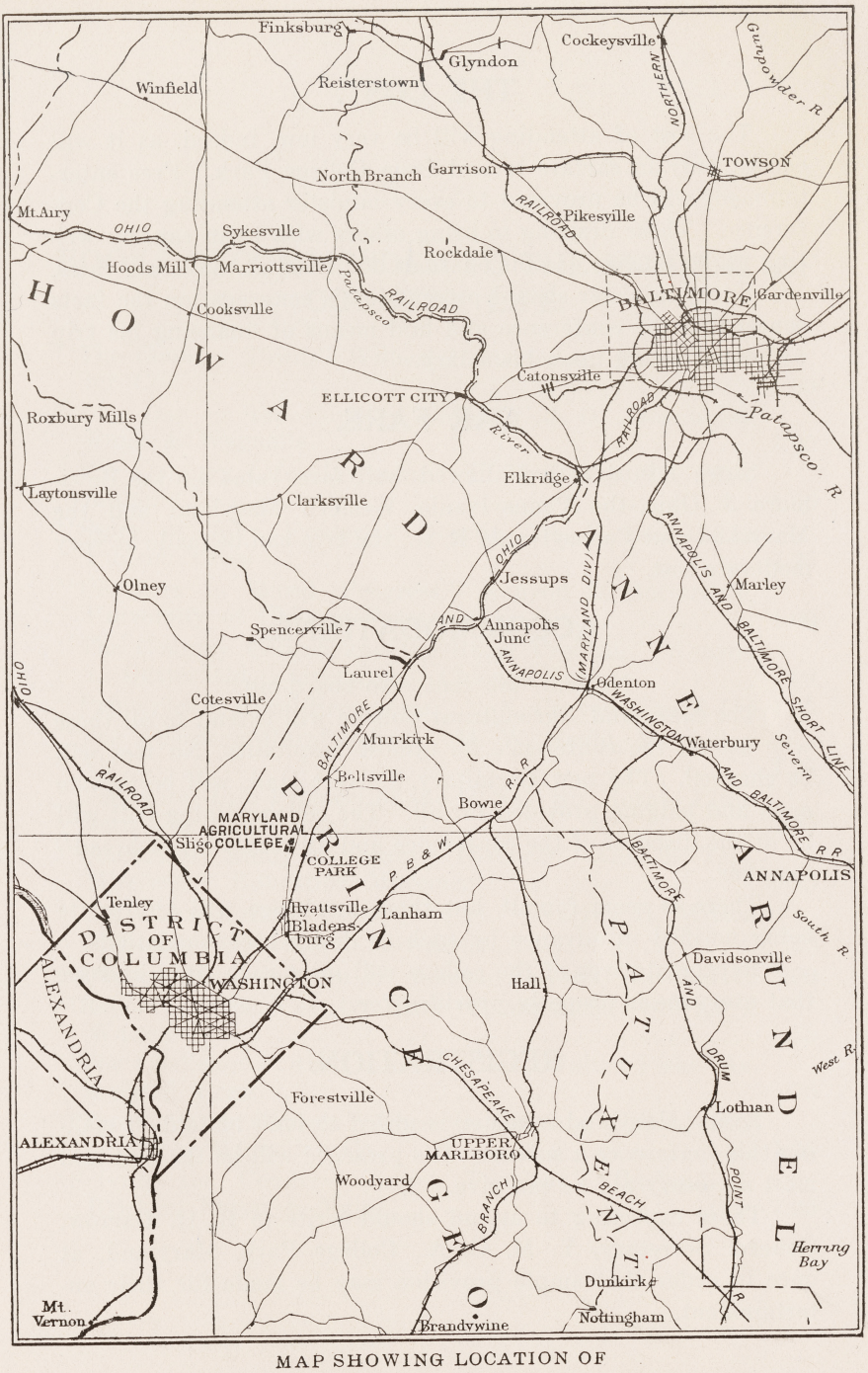
2:30— 3:00—Closing Address—"**THE DAWN**"..*Henry Isreal.*

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

The Maryland Agricultural College is located in Prince George's County, Maryland, on the line of the Washington Branch of the B. & O. R. R., eight miles from Washington, and thirty-two miles from Baltimore. At least ten trains a day stop at College Station, thus making the place easily accessible from all parts of the State. Telephone connection is made with the Chesapeake and Potomac lines.

The College grounds front on the Baltimore and Washington Boulevard. The suburban town of Hyattsville is two miles to the south, and Laurel, the largest town in the county, is ten miles to the north on the same road. Access to these towns and to Washington, may be had by steam and electric railway.

The street cars to and from Washington pass the college every half hour. Proximity to the Capitol and the fact that the conference does not begin until Tuesday and ends Thursday will make is possible to do some sight-seeing before or after its sessions.



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 8

8 miles = one inch

THE COST.

The cost of attending will be very low, indeed, as it will consist only in carfare to and from College Park. Free entertainment will be provided to every minister attending the Conference. Those desiring to bring others with them can, by writing early, engage accommodations for them at moderate rates.

Every minister should present to his congregation the facts concerning the conference and find means of financing his trip without drawing upon his salary.

CAR FARE.

Since ministers are allowed half fare rates by the Baltimore & Ohio, the Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and the Maryland and Pennsylvania R. R., the trip can be made at very moderate cost.

ACCOMMODATIONS.

No fees—No rent—No board-bill.

The Maryland Agricultural College will extend to all those who attend the conference its utmost hospitality. No fees will be charged. The new Dormitory, Calvert Hall, will be thrown open and lodging provided for all. The college dining hall will be at the disposal of the conference and all may "break bread" together.

There is room for all, but those in charge will appreciate being notified in advance by such as desire accommodations.

Representatives of the college will meet each train and see that everyone is properly provided for.

REGISTRATION.

Every Maryland minister is urged to lend his aid in making this conference a success. His presence will be the first and most necessary aid he can give.

Those expecting to attend should write to B. H. Darrow, General Secretary, Y. M. C. A., College Park, Maryland, at once in order that ample provision may be made for their entertainment.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED TO THE STUDENT OF COUNTRY LIFE.

"The Country Town," Wilbert L. Anderson, Baker Taylor Co. $1.00

"The Day of the Country Church," J. O. Ashenhurst, Funk & Wagnalls 1.00

"The Country Life Movement," L. H. Bailey, The Macmillan Co. 1.00

"Story of John Frederick Oberlin," A. F. Beard, The Pilgrim Press 1.25

"Chapters in Rural Progress," Kenyon L. Butterfield, University of Chicago Press 1.00

"The Country Church and the Rural Problem," Kenyon L. Butterfield, University of Chicago Press 1.08

"Principles of Rural Economics," T. N. Carver, Ginn & Co. 1.25

"The American Rural School," H. W. Foght, Macmillan Co. 1.25

"The Rural Life Problem of the U. S.," Sir Horace Plunkett, The Macmillan Co 1.25

"Community Study for Country Districts," Anna B. Taft, Missionary Education Movement ..... .35

"The Church of the Open Country," Warren H. Wilson Missionary Education Movement ..... .50

"Quaker Hill," Warren H. Wilson, Privately Printed ... 1.00

"Report of the Country Live Commission," Sturgis & Walton ..... .75

"The Challenge of the Country," Geo. Walter Fiske, Associated Press. ..... .75

"The Country Church," Chas. O. Gill and Gifford Pinchot, The Macmillan Co 1.25

'Solving the Country Church Problem," Garland A. Bricker, Eaton & Mains 1.25

DEDICATION OF CALVERT HALL.

"The learned professions as they are commonly termed, have engrossed most of the talent of all nations. Is it because those professions are more honorable in themselves than Agriculture? Certainly not. Is it because they require more talent, learning, and energy? It will not be pretended that they do. Then why is it that you find the most promising and talented sons of agriculturists deserting the profession of their fathers for some one of these? It is because they are endowed by nature with a certain ambitious thirst for distinction, which they feel can only be gratified by uniting themselves with one of these professional combinations. What is the remedy necessary to remove this incubus which is consuming our vitals? Simply, *education*—for so soon as you give a professional and, at the same time, a liberal education to the farmer, you at once arouse a professional pride to make his own the most honorable of all pursuits; and it is only necessary to arouse this pride to enable the agricultural community to take the position which their intelligence and numbers entitle them. If the agriculturists were as a body, liberally and professionally educated, they would take that stand in the political community which their numbers and interests entitle them to, and thereby control such matters."

The above sentiments expressed by Chas. B. Calvert in 1852, previous to the founding of the Agricultural College or for that matter any agricultural college, speak for themselves in justification of the dedication of the new home of the Agricultural College to his memory on Farmers' Day, May the 30th, when one of his descendants, Charlotte Calvert Spence, unveiled the tablet commemorating its erection.

Instead of sociology crowding out the Bible in the seminary it must spring forth from the Bible if it is going to be vital. * * * * The Bible is a book that grew up in God's great out-of-doors. The Ten Commandments were delivered in the open air. Jesus drew His illustrations largely from the country life, from sky and hill and field.

PROF. ROBERT W. VEACH.

We ought to send somebody out into our colleges and universities to call men, or to give them a motive force, to go into the field as a matter of life investment, not as a make-shift to get into a bigger church in the city, but to stay in the country for a lifetime if necessary and make the country church a paying institution.

EDWIN L. EARP